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CONCERNS REGARDING PIT 5 BERMS

05-30-91



Department of Energy

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MAY 30 1991

DOE-1436-91

Mr. Graham E. Mitchell, DOE Coordinator
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
40 South Main Street
Dayton, OH 45402

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

CONCERNS REGARDING PIT 5 BERMS

- Reference: 1) Letter, G. E. Mitchell to J. R. Craig, "Concerns about Pit 5 Berms," dated April 9, 1991
- 2) Letter, J. R. Craig to C. A. McCord and G. E. Mitchell, "Waste Pit Berms," dated March 27, 1991

In response to Reference 1, concerning the Waste Pit Berm evaluation and the varmints observed living in these berms, the following information is provided:

BERM EVALUATION

On February 5, 1991, Parsons Engineering was tasked to conduct an engineering evaluation of Waste Pit 3, Waste Pit 5 and the Clearwell berms. The primary reason for this evaluation is that the earthen berm, which forms the north side of Waste Pit 5, has exhibited evidence of possible slippage. The berms that form the west side of Waste Pit 3, Waste Pit 5 and the Clearwell are similar to the suspect berm and are also to be evaluated.

A Work Plan document for this evaluation has been prepared and a copy has been (previously) provided for your information (Reference 2). Field activities for this evaluation are to begin on approximately July 1, 1991. The Removal Site Evaluation detailing the results of this effort are anticipated to be complete October 31, 1991. An interim report will be issued on August 30, 1991, which will provide all available data at that time.

FERNALD'S MAIN PRIORITY IS CLEANUP

BURROWING MAMMALS

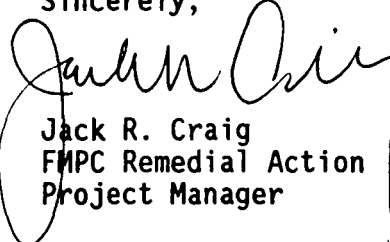
The existence of at least two burrows in the Waste Pit 5 berm indicate the presence of burrowing mammals in the Waste Pit Area. It is not known whether these burrows are currently inhabited. Based upon field observations, there is no evidence of movement in or out of these burrows. Inspection of these burrows is performed weekly in an effort to determine their occupancy status.

If it is determined that the burrows at Waste Pit 5 are inhabited, non-lethal, humane and environmentally sound methods will be employed to encourage the animals to permanently exit the Waste Pit Area. The nearest office of the Ohio Division of Wildlife will be contacted and requested to advise on means to encourage the animals to exit the Waste Pit Area and to discourage the animals' return. While humane and environmentally sound methods will always be used, more aggressive and potentially lethal means to rid the Waste Pit Area of the burrowing mammals will be employed if initial efforts prove ineffective.

Once the aforementioned burrows have been confirmed vacant, the burrows will be filled with cementitious grout or similar material to restore the structural integrity of the berm and to discourage re-occupation of the burrows. Regular inspections of the various Waste Pit berms will be conducted to discover any repopulation of the berms by burrowing mammals. If new evidence of the presence of burrowing mammals is found, the most effective proven means of ridding the Waste Pit Area of the animals will be employed.

If you have any questions, please contact Oba Vincent at (513) 738-6937 or FTS 774-6937.

Sincerely,


Jack R. Craig
FMPC Remedial Action
Project Manager

FSO:Vincent

cc:

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